

ASL

Australian Society for Limnology Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC.

The Australian Society for Limnology Inc. (ASL) is an Australian-based scientific society whose focus is the study and management of inland waters. The ASL was established in 1961, and has a current membership of over 650 researchers, managers, engineers, teachers and tertiary level students from all states and territories. Members have a strong professional interest in inland aquatic issues, including the maintenance of biodiversity, the maintenance and/or restoration of water quality, and the wise use of aquatic resources. The Society also has a strong interest in fostering the scientific and intellectual development of tertiary students.

The Society includes members working in government agencies, tertiary institutions and many industries related to aquatic resources. Through their daily activities, members have contact with local communities and are in a sound position to interpret and advise on inland water issues. The Society has a substantial knowledge base, and has assumed a responsibility to ensure that this is available to those who manage inland waters.

Accordingly, the charter of the ASL is to further our understanding of Australia's inland waters and to promote their wise use and sustainable management. In this manner we will contribute to the continued existence of this valued resource and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for all Australians. The ASL regularly produces a newsletter with notes on limnological activities, articles of interest, book reviews and announcements of upcoming events likely to be of interest to Members.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello all,

Since the last newsletter we have had an extraordinarily successful conference in Hobart and our 2005 Annual General Meeting. As always, the minutes of this meeting are included in this newsletter for those of you that were unable to attend.

We have had some turnover in the executive with Stephen Balcombe taking over from Fiona MacKenzie-Smith in Queensland, and Michael Reid taking over from Frederick Bouckaert in ACT. Thank you to both Fiona and Frederick for their active participation on the executive - it is through the executive that you are represented in the society.

Welcome to Michael and to Stephen, I look forward to working with you - and for the members in Queensland and the ACT: do make contact with Michael and Stephen if you would like to contribute to our activities.

In order to give you as members some background on the executive members, this newsletters contains a short paragraph from Michael to fill you in on his background and ASL intentions. I also would like to thank the continuing executive members for nominating again and continuing on our executive - I look forward to a productive year working with you on the issues raised at the AGM!

The next executive meeting will be held towards the end of February, so if there are things you would like to contribute, please don't hesitate to contact your regional representative, Richard Marchant as secretary or myself.

Main ASL activities since the AGM have centered around the wrapping up of the conference, the hand-over of conference information to the new conference organising committee (chaired by Ben Gawne in Albany), bringing membership dues up to date (and encouraging members to pay their outstanding dues...), website updating, and Andrew Boulton has enthusiastically embarked on the ASL history project.

Finally: please consider now nominating members for both the early careers award and the ASL medal - this was a focus of our discussion at the AGM as we would like to ensure that we are able to acknowledge our exceptional members in the appropriate way! Both nominations are due several months before the next conference and as it can take some time to gather the supporting endorsements for the nominations, the process needs to start early.

I wish you all a productive and happy 2006!

Once again: the society is what you make it, so be involved!
Sabine Schreiber (President)

ASL EXECUTIVE**From Michael Reid**

I completed my PhD thesis on the palaeolimnology of billabongs in the Murray basin in 1997. I subsequently worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at Monash University on a research project that examined how the effectiveness of environmental water allocations to wetlands in the MDB should be monitored. In 2001 I went to New Zealand where I worked at the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) on, among other things, the development of models for reconstructing trophic histories of lakes. I am currently a research fellow at University of Canberra where I'm involved with a range of research projects examining floodplain and in-stream ecology.

I believe ASL is an excellent forum for making and maintaining links with other researchers, and, having been a member of ASL since 1997, I feel that I would now like to make a greater contribution to the organisation. Aside from acting as a representative for ACT ASL members on the executive, my prime concern as the ACT representative would be to enhance the level of interaction between ACT-based members of ASL. The exchange of ideas is one of the most important components of an innovative and productive community of scientists. There are many ways in which this might be achieved. For example, having formerly been a Victorian member, I found the "science in the pub" series of seminars carried out in Melbourne to be a great way to get to know other members and learn what they are up to (not to mention a good excuse to spend time at the pub). Other possible activities include establishing manuscript writing groups and other fora for science-talk or informal gatherings at the annual ASL congress itself. I look forward to the opportunity to meet and get to know more of the ACT's limnological community through this role.

ASL Executive Meeting, 30 Nov 2005, Hobart, Tasmania.

Present: M.Hart, R.Marchant, D.Ryder, S.Schreiber, D.Warfe, S.Wild, F.Bouckaert, A.Boulton, A. Macgregor

1.Current conference: the number of student prizes at the annual congress has been increasing over recent years, largely because sponsors want to provide prizes in addition to those already given by the society. This can be embarrassing because the value of prizes from sponsors often exceeds the value of those given by the ASL. The society needs to resist the temptation to relentlessly increase the

number of prizes and should seek a commitment from a potential prize sponsor to provide a prize for a minimum period, e.g. 5 years.

2. Web page: problems are still being encountered with various aspects of the new web page. The Regional Institute which runs the page needs a check list of our concerns. This could be drawn up at or after a teleconference of the executive in Feb 2006.

3. M.Hart suggested that the society consider upper limits to the conference expenses that the society will pay to winners of the ASL medal and the Early Career Award. After some discussion it was decided to limit these amounts to \$2000 for medal winners and \$1500 for early career award winners.

4. Fees for retired members: S.Schreiber has received correspondence suggesting that ASL members that have retired from paid work should be able to make a one-off payment of \$100 for life membership. The executive felt this was an excellent idea and would bring it to the attention of the AGM for approval.

5. Future conferences: the society has received an offer from B.Gawne and MDFRC to host the 2006 congress in Albury-Wodonga during the last week in September. The 2007 congress will be a joint one with the New Zealanders in NZ and M.Lund has offered to hold a congress in WA in 2008.

6. Newsletter and web page guidelines: the society has experienced some difficulty in deciding whether non-members should be able to submit material to the newsletter and the web page. Such submissions occur fairly regularly. It was felt that at the very least such submissions must be signed. A.Boulton offered to produce some guidelines.

7. ASL medal and Early Career Award: nominations for both awards need to be received 2 months before the annual congress. Currently, Medal nominations only hold for a year while Early Career nominations are good for 3 years.

8. FASTS: A.Boulton thanked F.Bouckaert for attending the latest meeting which he could not make as he was in New Zealand.

44th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Limnology, 1 December 2005, Hobart, Tasmania
(p=proposed, s=seconded)

1. Adoption of agenda (p: R.Marchant, s: P.Papas): passed.

2. Apologies: B.Zampatti, B.Downes

3. Acceptance of minutes of the last AGM (p: J.Hawking, s: M.Hogan): passed.

4. Matters arising: at the last AGM B.Robson proposed a query should be made to FASTS about ARC funding for freshwater work. A general reply from FASTS about this matter was published in the newsletter.

5. President's report:

Thank you for coming to this year's AGM! It is important to meet in person and to hear about the research that you are doing - we've had around 50 student presentations of a total of around 200 presentations at this conference!

Quite selfishly I must admit that for me a highlight this year was working with the executive: in particular being able to work in person with Margaret Hart (treasurer/membership officer) and Richard Marchant (secretary), as we were all located in the same city. Similarly the executive members have been quite active via email and I would like to acknowledge their useful contributions to the discussion of issues and to decisions that had to be made this year. I would like to say thank you to all of you for your help and support, in particular to our vice president, Stuart Bunn.

As I started my term as president Simon Josey, our long-standing and dedicated web master changed careers and moved away from limnology and into a new life of teaching and country-living. However, it turned out that I did not have to fret as Heather Shearer promptly volunteered to take over as web administrator and quickly gave our web page a new look and feel. I would like to thank Heather for volunteering and giving her very valuable time to our society!

Similarly Rhonda Sinclair finished her term as editor, and once again our call for a volunteer was quickly answered by Emma Mackenzie, who jumped in immediately and produced the next edition of the newsletter without a glitch! Thank you Emma!

The ease with which we were able to fill these two crucial positions was definitely a highlight for the society in this past year!

Students are an integral part of our society, their contribution to research in our field is huge, their talks at conferences are generally regarded as the more interesting ones to go to and the future of our society depends on our students. A highlight was the student initiative of creating the position of student

representative: Gus MacGregor has taken this on over the last year and is in the process of developing it further. It is immensely encouraging to have this initiative of student-led involvement in the society. No doubt Gus has had many good laughs over the last year as he has become part of our discussions and deliberations in the executive.

In addition to our annual executive meetings at the AGM we have had one phone meeting in February, the minutes of which were published in the March newsletter. We've also done a fair bit of our business over the email, with many discussions and deliberations for example, leading up to the purchase of our new web system, the organisation of conferences (up to 2008), the web release of the Protected Areas Policy, the Stop-the-toad foundation support through Andrew Storey, and information dissemination via Frederick Bouckaert and Andrew Boulton from FASTS. In particular it is through the executive that your voice as a member of ASL is represented in the issues and activities we deal with and I would like to encourage all members to contribute. Decisions reached by the executive are documented either in the minutes published in the newsletter or through other updates both in the newsletter and on the web page.

The Jolly Award, now ASL medal, has been part of our society from the beginning, and is awarded for outstanding achievements and leadership in the field of limnology. Today's winners receive a gold medal, which was not the case in the past, and a few years ago the society (under Andrew Boulton) decided to award retrospective medals to past winners. I was very lucky to be at the end of this process and had the job of sending out these medals: all past medal winners were delighted and I received several great letters with stories about ASL!

This year's conference is without doubt another highlight: we've heard some great talks, the number of presentations was exceptional, with over 50 student presentations in a total of around 200 talks and posters. The organisation was outstanding - with the organising committee being amazing in the face of the trials and tribulations associated with our new web system. As for the food and bowling.....!!!!!! Many thanks to Danielle Warfe, John Gooderham and their team for jumping in at the last minute to organise this great conference. John, in particular, has put a mammoth effort into helping with the new web system, not only in organising the conference, but also in helping me come to grips with it.

Andrew Boulton now represents the aquatic cluster of societies on the FASTS board, and together with Frederick Bouckaert has represented our society at a range of FASTS meetings. Science meets Parliament was organised by FASTS in March and several of us attended, including students - I would like to encourage students in particular to consider attending future SMP events, as they provide a

valuable insight into the world of politics, lobbying and the role that science and scientists can play in our society.

Following a long labour we finally finalised the Freshwater Protected Areas policy and posted it on our web site earlier this year. I encourage all members to read the policy.

We have had some major changes this year, with the move to a more web-based membership management that integrates with the management of our annual conference. In this endeavour several of our executive and this year's conference organisers have worked very hard to make it work for us. In particular, a huge thank you to Margaret Hart (treasurer/membership officer) who has taken on a great number of changes including the battle with our new technology (we have adopted a web system that is being developed by the Regional Institute, a group that has the vision of making science accessible to the general community via the web). At the same time Margaret has had to register us for the GST, provide three-monthly bas statements, change computer platform, build a house and embark on her and Barry's own "river-change".

Given that we continue to grow, we have had to adopt the GST, and you will have noticed that your membership fees now have the GST included in them and we can now issue tax invoices.

In this context I would like to convey to you that the executive has had a discussion about reducing membership fees for long-standing members that have retired. We are proposing that these members, following their retirement, pay a once-off, substantially reduced life membership fee of \$100 that entitles them to continuing membership benefits, such as the electronic newsletter and reduced conference rates.

For the coming year we will once again put emphasis on the organisation of the annual conference, as this is the core of our society. We also aim to actively celebrate the achievements of our members through the ASL medal and through the early career award.

Our new web page has a number of interactive features that members can make use of now: I encourage you to have a look and perhaps start a discussion forum, use it to update your membership details, form your own interest group and post information to share (however, as the web page is still under development, I would advise patience but also would like to encourage any technophiles to become involved in this development - please contact Heather Shearer or myself for further information).

As we use technology more our information can become more widely available, and we will need to develop guidelines on how we make use of the web and the newsletter. We've started to put some guidelines together on this process and will keep you posted on their development.

Accepted (p: R.Marchant, s: T.Hillman).

6. Secretary's report: The main issue over the last 12 months was the ability of the ASL to comply with the rules of Consumer Affairs, Vic, that require an AGM to be held within 5 months of the end of the society's financial year, i.e. by Nov 30. The society has missed this deadline in the past and will do so this year. An extension can be obtained for \$21 each year but no permanent exemption from this rule can be granted. Consumer affairs suggested the ASL change its financial year but that would cause further problems as the society is now registered for GST and has to supply quarterly statements to the tax office, based on a July to June financial year. It seems the only solution if a December congress is held is to apply for an extension. Accepted (p: S.Schreiber, s: R.Butcher).

7. Treasurer's report: the current membership of the ASL is as follows: 399 ordinary members, 104 student members, 18 institutional members, 24 life members and 29 ten year members. This gives a total of 574 members. The financial statement is attached. There was some discussion suggesting that the executive should think of ways of spending some of the society's accumulated wealth that would benefit members. Some of this amount has yet to be paid to the Regional Institute for the new web site that the society has initiated. Accepted (p: M.Hart, s: J.Roberts).

8. Auditor's report: attached.

9. Honorary for Treasurer: R.Marchant proposed (s: I.Bayly) that the ASL pay M.Hart \$2500 for her services this last year. Passed.

10. Editor's report: none

11. Newsletter Editor's and Webmaster's reports:

12. Early Career Excellence Award: the award committee (B.Robson, S.Bunn and S.Schreiber) gave the following report:

Unfortunately we have had a very limited number of applications this year and felt that the nominations were not yet at the level of achievement that previous winners of this award have displayed. Thus the award committee, consisting of the

president, vice president and last year's recipient of the award (B.Robson) decided not to present the award this year.

In this process we have identified the need to encourage future nominations for this award and to this end, last year's winner, Belinda Robson, will chair the committee and initiate a nomination process. This process will consist of encouraging all previous winners of the award to form a search committee to elicit nominations for the award in the coming year. We also propose to send letters to the major research organisations that our members are part of, making them aware of the award and asking for potential nominations. Nominations must be received by July 2006.

13. ASL medal: this year the medal has been awarded to Professor A.Boulton from the University of New England. His nomination is as follows:

For this year it gives me great pleasure to announce that the winner of this year's medal is Professor Andrew Boulton from the University of New England.

Andrew's research excellence lies in the field of temporary stream and hyporheic zone ecology. He is internationally recognised for his expertise on hyporheic fauna and biogeochemistry, on the ecology of temporary streams and their biota, cycling of organic matter in streams and linking these attributes to ecological processes for effective river restoration. His achievements are expressed in the publication of 2 books and 95 peer-reviewed publications, in over 100 conference presentations- many of which he was invited to present at or be a plenary speaker at. He has worked and lectured in Universities in Australia (Adelaide, Monash, UNE), and in the USA, France and New Zealand. He is on the editorial board of 4 international journals and is a referee for over 35 international journals. He has inspired young researchers in many ways, through supervision of 2 ARC postdoctoral fellows, 8 PhD, 9 Masters and 53 honours students - and he is currently the supervisor of 9 PhD students. He also has had a strong impact through his teaching of undergraduate students - he was awarded a UNE's VC teaching award as well as UNE's VC research award, but he has also had impact on the broader community, through conducting numerous public workshops and school visits to communicate the role of science and aquatic ecology in our society.

In short, Congratulations Andrew, A medal well deserved!

A search committee will be formed to elicit nominations from members.

14. Bill Williams' Travel Award: this award has been made to Dr B.Kefford of RMIT University to enable him to attend the 2006 meeting of the American Society of

Limnology and Oceanography. This award is made approximately every two years to enable a graduate student to present some of his or her work at an international forum. The committee encourages applications.

15. Student Travel awards: nine students were given awards to enable them to attend this year's congress in Hobart and present their work: L.Sim, J.O'Connor, T.Staveley and E.Ligtermoet (WA); J.Fawcett, J.Huey and T.Page (Qld); A.Jensen and N.Kelly (SA)

16. Student prizes (announced at the conference dinner rather than the AGM):

MFR Poster: Sarra Hinshaw

ASL poster: Anne Watson; runner up: Mikis Bastien

AWA award: Munique Webb

Honours award: Thomas Staveley ; commendations to Arlene Wheatley and Ashley McQueen

PhD/MSc award: James Fawcett; commendations to Rick Stuart-Smith, Melissa Carew, Randall Robinson and Joanne O'Connor

17. 45th congress: B.Gawne and staff from the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Lab in Wodonga VIC have made a firm proposal to host next year's congress. This will be held in the last week of September (25-29th) to coincide with a teaching-free period at the universities.

18. Future congresses: in 2007 the ASL will hold a joint conference with the New Zealand Freshwater Science Society in NZ at Rotorua. B.Robson will liaise with the New Zealand society to obtain dates of the meeting when available. In 2008 M.Lund (Edith Cowan University) has offered to host a meeting in WA, but no dates or venue are available yet.

19. Election of the executive: the following members were elected unopposed as regional representatives:

TAS - D.Warfe (p: L.Barmuta, s: M.Hogan)

VIC - B.Downes (p: B.Robson, s: T.Doeg)

SA - B.Zampatti (p: J.Nicol, s: A.MacGregor)

WA - S.Wild (p: J.Chambers, s: M.Hogan)

NT - N.Rea (p: L.Barmuta, s: L.Evans)

NSW - D.Ryder (p: A.Boulton, s: M.Brock)

QLD - S.Balcombe (p: F.McKenzie-Smith, s: J.Marshall)

ACT - M.Reid (p: F.Bouckaert, s: R.Butcher)

Student rep - A.MacGregor (p: M.Hart, s: S.Linke)

Other executive officers are elected for a two year term and no election was required this year.

20. Election of the auditor: M.Hart proposed (s: R.Marchant) that Castor Galgut be re-appointed as auditors.

21. General Business:

(a) Retired members: it was proposed that long standing ASL members who have retired could take out life membership for \$100. The only requirement would be that such members should maintain regular contact with the society. This initiative was widely supported by the AGM. The incoming executive will devise rules for this category of membership.

(b) Nomination for ASL awards: S.Bunn highlighted that the society was not receiving enough nominations for either the ASL medal or the Early Career Award. He suggested that members in major institutions be contacted to elicit nominations. Nominations for the ASL medal currently are valid for one year only. He suggested that previous nominations be revised and re-submitted. He proposed that the rules for the ASL medal be re-worked (s: L.Barmuta) and this motion was carried.

(c) FASTS: F.Bouckaert will provide a report on the recent FASTS AGM for the newsletter. A.Boulton is currently the FASTS representative for the aquatic societies. He encouraged members to contact FASTS about issues related to university research and teaching by sending comments and views to him (or M.Reid who may deputise for him at FASTS meetings).

(d) History of the ASL: A.Boulton proposed that a history of the society be compiled, perhaps to coincide with the 50th anniversary of its founding (2010). He suggested two ways in which this might be accomplished: (i) publication of a booklet covering congresses, events, research themes of members, photos; (ii) publication of a special issue of Marine and Freshwater Research summarising the essence of the booklet, as well as containing a series of invited reviews. This proposal was received enthusiastically by the members and will be developed by the executive.

(e) S.Schreiber closed the AGM by encouraging members who wanted to contribute to the organisation of future congresses to contact the various people who have made conference proposals. M.Hart proposed a vote of thanks for S.Schreiber and R.Marchant for their work during the past year. This was passed with acclamation.

ASL executive meeting, 1 December 2005, Hobart, Tasmania

Present: S.Schreiber, S.Bunn, R.Marchant, M.Hart, D.Warfe, S.Wild, D.Ryder, M.Reid, S.Balcombe, A. Macgregor

1. ASL History: S.Schreiber will ask A.Boulton to propose a budget for this project.
2. ASL medals: all nominations received in the last 2-3 years should be examined and nominators asked to re-nominate candidates. The medal committee should also contact the last 5-6 winners for possible candidates.
3. Teleconference: S.Schreiber suggested the executive hold a teleconference in February 2006.
4. Guidelines for publication in the newsletter and on the web page: A.Boulton suggested the following:
The ASL listserver, website and newsletter primarily serve to disseminate articles, observations, professional news, non-commercial advertisements, and other material of a limnological nature to our members. While preference is given to contributions from members, this is not essential. Items that may offend or embarrass any ASL members or that contravene ethical obligations (e.g., appropriate treatment of animals used in research) will be rejected but the ASL executive will make strenuous efforts not to censor material needlessly, trusting the contributors to exhibit responsibility for their contributions. As such, all material published in the listserver, website or newsletter must bear the names and contact details of the author(s).

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the December 05 issue - Summertime - when everything takes its time in getting to where its meant to be, forced by the heat to take things just that bit easier.

Material for publication in the Volume 44 # 1 newsletter (March Issue) is due by **17 March, 2006.**

All articles should be forwarded, if possible, as unformatted text on a disk or via email.

ASL Home Page - http://www.asl.org.au/
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

2005 Door Prize Report

Welcome to the 2005 Door Prize presentation. For those of you new to the society or the ASL conference, the Door Prize is presented to the most memorable thing that happens at the ASL conference for the year.

Many years from now, most of you will not remember much about this year's conference. Memories of the talks will fade, but there will always be one thing that sticks in your mind and be forever associated with the ASL Hobart Conference - the winner of the Door Prize.

Who can forget the Line Dancers at Jenolan Caves ? Well, maybe those who came down with massive food poisoning at the conference may not have noticed. But for those of us still standing at that stage, the sight of a busload of cowboy-clad boot-scooting dancers descending out of the darkness to take over the annual dance ... Who can forget about the talk at Warrnambool about the sounds of invertebrates in wetlands? Or the John Howard impersonator as the after dinner speaker at Moama?

What else happened at these conferences? Who can remember? But we will always remember the Door Prize winner.

And it was a memorable conference. Well organised with a memorable venue, memorable food and memorable beer and wine. But more of the Conference Organisers later. The older members here will remember Patrick DeDecker's inaugural Door Prize win at the Mt. Gambier conference. Who would have guessed at that stage that the Door Prize would still be going, some 22 years later. And since Patrick's win, he has been trying to win it again. But I'm afraid that pictures of Ostracods having sex just doesn't cut it any more. It may have been memorable then, but we have matured as a society since then.

Except, of course, for Terry Hillman, I suspect the only person in the room that could make the Freudian connections between ostracod sex and taking palaeolimnology cores in wetlands, as both involve "ramming things into each other".

It was nice of the ASL to award the Bill Williams scholarship to Ben Kefford, helping him to get overseas next year. You may not be aware, but Ben is off to Antarctica for 4 months. But did we have to extend our help by setting the lecture

theatre room temperature to somewhere below zero to help him acclimatise to the outside work at Mawson Base?

The fine young things that organised this year's conference are to be congratulated for introducing the "Old Farts" Apple award (let's see if that's still going in 22 years!). Showing respect for elders is a declining theme in Australian Society. But they seem to have missed the respect theme by printing the abstracts in about 3 point - pretty tough on the more visually challenged mature members - and as for the 8:15 starts But more of the Conference Organisers later.

A few quick nominations:

- Amina Price for spending an entire talk in a cupboard by leaving through the wrong door during a session.
- Ben Gawne for deleting an entire session of talks while trying to load his presentation by himself.
- The Griffith Crew - you know why!
- In a Door Prize first, the collective that makes up the nominations and assessment committee has instructed me to nominate - myself. Apparently, on the bus from the airport, while chatting to a fellow consultant, I may have made some comment about the poor Government agency members who were attending this year. I can't remember exactly what I said (but who can while trying to recover after a Jetstar flight), but I would like to humbly apologise to the Government agency member sitting quietly in the back of the bus.

I should point out that the rumour that I suggested that Government members should be publicly flogged, cut into small pieces and burnt in a ceremony after the annual dinner is a slight exaggeration. But, explaining what really happened, what was really said, and what was really meant is simply not an option for a Door Prize nominee (note: luckily I have the casting vote in the nomination and assessment committee).

Speaking of insults, I'm sure that Peter Davies' (the cute one, not the Tasmanian one) serial put downs of all things Tasmanian were also completely unintended. And those of you who actually left Tasmania out of any maps that indicated where your study site was in relation to the rest of Australia What an insult to the organising committee. But more of them later.

The greybeard (a much nicer term than "old fart", don't you think) gets a mention for the highest diversity of non-limnological images in a single talk. How one can talk of limnology and introduce penguins, starfish, dolphins, cows, an eagle and ice skating just shows how important context is.

Not only context, but typeface as well. In the program, there is a distinction between the presenter of the talk and the title of the talk. The speaker is in bold and the title is in normal typeface. It's a pretty clear distinction. But if you leave out the bold typeface, then there is no distinction between the author and the title.

I was particularly taken by the talk at 3:00 in the Learning Centre - there was no bold face in the title, so it could only have been "Mike Grace Smothered by Sand". When the ABC heard about this event, they even sent a film crew down to cover this momentous example of ASL performance art. How disappointed we all were to find out it was just another talk, and Mike was not even going to be up to his ankles in sand. The ABC also rapidly packed up and left.

But what was the most memorable thing at the conference?

One of the key aims of an ASL conference, I think, is to take us all out of our normal comfort zone. To expose us to things and ideas that we are not used to. So we gather from around the country to a new place, unfamiliar with our surroundings, to meet new people - not just those we normally hang around with. The structure of the program makes us choose to go to talks on subjects outside our field (I even went to a wetland chemistry talk!). Conferences can get pretty complex dealing with all these new things.

But we are professionals. We are used to complex things, dealing with complex ecosystems with complex food webs. Sorting out complex management issues with complex solutions. But give us a simple concept and we are often lost.

For example, let's say you have a round ball. One side of this ball is more dense than the other. One side is heavier. Simple. And if you roll that ball across a flat surface, then the ball will curve towards the heavy side. It's simple. It's just 6th grade physics.

No matter how much guidance from the Bowls Club members (count the Masters and Ph.D.'s amongst them), there are some simple concepts that we just can't grasp. So the sight of almost 200 highly trained professional (count the Masters and Ph.D.'s amongst them) struggling with such a simple concept on the bowls rink at the annual ASL barbeque must rate as the most memorable event of this year's conference. So the 2005 ASL Door Prize is actually awarded this year to the Conference Organisers. While running a slick well managed standard conference, they also had the lateral idea of holding the ASL barbeque at a Bowls Club. It will indeed be a hard act to follow.

SCUTTLEBUTT, RUMOUR AND PRATTLE

University of New England

We are all acclimatising back into the mild summers of the Tablelands after the harsh Tasmanian summer we experienced in Hobart. Field trips to the coast are high on the agenda for the summer months, with PhD student **Emilie Warner** commencing field experiments in the Nymboida River to examine the role of flow regime on biofilm colonisation and development. Further south in the Hunter River, **Ben Wolfenden** and **Sarah Mika** are busy collecting data examining organic matter cycles and hyporheic zone biogeochemistry respectively in reaches that have had woody structures installed. Also in the Hunter River, **Sally Maxwell** and **Rob Rolls** begin their PhDs early in 2006 looking at macroinvertebrates and larval fish, supervised by **Andrew Boulton** and **Ivor Grown**s.

Out in the not so dry west, **Kim Jenkins** and **Phil Morris** have been busy sampling the microinvertebrates of the Macquarie Marshes after an environmental release made it onto the floodplain. **Megan Purvis** begins her Masters in early 2006 adding macroinvertebrates to the suite of data collected from the Marshes. **Peter Hancock** has begun his ARC postdoc, collecting groundwater invertebrates from every bore he can access, with newly arrived PhD student **Moya Tomlinson** learning the art of sampling groundwater bores. Still out west and **Darren Ryder** and **Sue Vink** (CSIRO) have given up all hope of rain and floods in the Murrumbidgee River, and are writing up the role of drought in driving riverine productivity and contaminant cycles in the mighty 'bidgee. And way out west, new PhD student **Debbie Burgis** begins in early 2006 with **Darren** examining the role of environmental flow regimes in regulating riverine productivity in the lower Gwydir River.

Darren Ryder

A BIT OF FUN ~ KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING !!

Ask Onmil all the tricky limnological etiquette questions you really want answered!!

Dear Onmil

I have trouble with polisy!...polysillabub.....polycil...long words. Can I still become a limol...lymnul.....limnol...agist.....study inland waters?

Cince...Synnser...Signed

D. Lexic

Dear D.

Dear oh dear D. You do believe in making life diffa...dyffic...hard for yourself, don't you?

But of course you can become a limnologist! Thousands of people are happy to call aquatic macroinvertebrates water bugs, macrophytes water plants, phytoplankton algae (or tiny water plants), zooplankton little bugs, water birds water birds, etc. You'll just be one more. Just don't try taxonomy (and why would you? It's the scientific equivalent of train spotting...if much more useful*).

No, pick hydrology. You can talk about the rise and fall of rivers, the volume of water, how big floods are, how long the water hangs about.....how little of it stays in the river. And it's all numbers.

Or modelling. Illiteracy is no handicap for a modeller. Not that I've noticed, anyway.

Or aquatic ecology. You can talk about guilds of shredders and trappers, where plants and animals live and play, you can collect data.....too much data is never enough (or, for the pedants, too many data are never enough)!

Accurate data, replicated data...variable data, lots of data...big data, little data, data, data, data.....whooooohooo!

I'm sorry, I have to go and have a cold shower now.....

Sincerely

Onmil

* With apologies to all limnological taxonomists who are also train-sporters

Ask Onmil

All the tricky limnological etiquette questions you really want answered.....

INFORMATION FROM AND FOR MEMBERS

Stop the Toad Foundation

ASL is pleased to announce that it has been involved as a founding organization of the newly formed 'Stop the Toad Foundation'. ASL will be represented on the Foundation's board by Dr Andrew Storey. The Foundation aims to prevent the invasion of Cane Toads into Western Australia through trapping and fencing at the Victoria River, to the east of the NT/WA border. The Foundation will receive and administer funds and donations to attempt to control cane toads. Funding to the Foundation was initiated by Tim Winton (author) and Luc Longley (basketballer) who have each donated \$10,000. The State Government has subsequently donated \$500,000 (in addition to about \$1.5M given to state agencies for Cane Toad control/awareness). Additional funds will also be sought from private and corporate entities.

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**AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR TROPICAL FRESHWATER RESEARCH,  
JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, TOWNSVILLE**

"A Comprehensive Analysis of the Freshwater Fish Faunas and Their Key Management Needs Across Northern Australia" is a new three-year project about to be kicked off. The project leaders are **Damien Burrows** from ACTFR and **Brad Pusey** from the Centre for Riverine Landscapes, Griffith University. Other staff working on, or contributing to, the project include; **Colton Perna**, who recently finished his Masters on fish habitat on the Burdekin floodplain, **Mark Kennard**, from CRL, Griffith University, **Jane Hughes** from Griffith University, and several other lab and field support staff. The project involves extensive field survey from Cape York to the Kimberley, surveying the distribution of freshwater fish in catchments where survey is currently insufficient. We hope to plug most of the major distributional gaps across this region over the next three years, as well as collecting enough specimens, samples and data to continue research back in the lab for several years post-field work. Field trips are expected to be very challenging and yet, as expected, there is no shortage of volunteers.

ACTFR also welcomes aboard **Vern Veitch** as a new aquatic scientist working on our various fish, water quality and wetland rehabilitation projects, **Zoe Bainbridge**,

working on catchment sources of sediments and nutrients emanating from the Burdekin catchment to the Great Barrier Reef and **Tom Coughlin**, working on improving grazing land management to better manage water quality and aquatic habitat. All three projects involve extensive working with local stakeholders and cooperative projects on existing properties and farms. **Ally Lankester** has submitted her Masters thesis on grazer attitudes and beliefs relating to riparian management in the upper Burdekin catchment and is now employed to work on similar projects, beginning with surveying grazer opinions on tree thickening in parts of the Gulf or Carpentaria catchments. **Damien Burrows**, **Zoe Bainbridge** and **Alan Mitchell** all gave presentations at the recent Rainforest to Reef Conference and **Niall Connolly** at the recent ASL annual conference. **Damien Burrows** was unable to attend the recent ASL annual conference, but his presentation on hypoxia tolerances of tropical freshwater fish was presented by co-author **Richard Pearson**.

**Damien Burrows**

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The November issue of the **National Water Commission** newsletter **Distilled** is now available at: http://www.nwc.gov.au/newsletter/nwc_newsletter_2.html

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### **ScienceNetwork WA: Shining a light on Western Australian science**

I thought I would drop you a line to let you know about ScienceNetwork WA ([www.sciencewa.net.au](http://www.sciencewa.net.au)), an informative and illuminating website that was launched one year ago after being developed by Scitech in a successful partnership with the State Government's Office of Science and Innovation.

ScienceNetwork WA is an independent and reliable source of Western Australian science news and information. It aims to raise community awareness of the importance of science to our daily lives and the scientific principles at work in every day life, as well as encourage the uptake of scientific careers.

The site contains breaking news from industry, educational and research institutions; a database of upcoming events; profiles of leading scientists, key scientific organisations, and top industry bodies; and links to many resources for students, teachers and professionals.

We have so far been delighted with the success of the initiative, which over the past year has attracted more than 3000 subscribers. It has gone a long way

towards achieving its original brief of promoting Western Australia as a hub of scientific excellence and raising community awareness of the importance of science to our lives.

It also provides the many different facets of Western Australia's science with one 'virtual community' to foster a sense of belonging and common purpose, and encourages an open dialogue about the direction of science in Western Australia.

More than 100 of the State's leading scientists and educators have shown their support for ScienceNetwork WA by becoming Ambassadors for Science. Since it started more than a year ago, the program has evolved to include a wide variety of people united by one common thread - a desire to broaden the general community's understanding of the importance and value of science in our lives through events, media comment and profiles. As a result we have had early career scientists, leaders in the field, directors of research institutions, educators and researchers all put up their hand to join.

I encourage you and your colleagues to visit the ScienceNetwork WA website at:

<http://www.sciencewa.net.au/subscribe.asp?pg=31>

If you are interested in finding out more about the opportunities offered by ScienceNetwork WA and the Ambassadors for Science program, please contact me.

Thanks for supporting ScienceNetwork WA!

Phillipa Prior

ScienceNetwork WA Editor, [phillipa@scitech.org.au](mailto:phillipa@scitech.org.au)

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Environmental Equipment Supplies

ECO Environmental is a WA based environmental equipment supplier. Finding the right environmental equipment, that can be delivered in a reasonable time frame at a decent price is quite difficult for most consultants. ECO environmental can provide this service to ALS members.

ECO supply a wide range of equipment for sales and rental, and have been appointed

Australian agents for many overseas environmental manufacturers. I am certain that you will find our service friendly and our pricing competitive.

You can view our website at: www.ecoenvironmental.com.au

ECO are a 'one stop shop' that specialise in monitoring and sampling equipment designed for dust, water, soil, gas, PPE and most other environmental applications. Our contact information has now been circulated to many industry groups in WA including the ECA and the ACLCA and all have found us quite useful as a supplier.

FASTS

**FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES**

**Science and Technology for the Social, Environmental and
Economic Benefit of Australia**

"FASTS FORWARD"

FASTS meetings: report from ASL representative

I attended the Extraordinary General Meeting, the Annual Meeting and the Board meeting held on 21 and 22 November 2005 in Canberra as a proxy for Andrew Boulton, who represents the aquatic cluster of AMSA, ASL, ACRS and ASPAB.

1) Extraordinary General Meeting

This meeting was called to debate and vote on constitutional change. The changes in the constitution were required at the last AGM and are necessary to provide organisation members to vote at the AGM. After debating minor amendments the new constitution was adopted unanimously, and the motion to operate as if the new constitution would take effect immediately was also endorsed.

2) Annual general meeting

During this meeting the new executive in its new composition was elected. Note that Tom Baldwin (incoming president) intended to contact Andrew Boulton to propose to him to nominate for Treasurer. There were no nominations for the Treasurer position but a nomination was received from the floor and Graeme Tailor was elected as Treasurer. The only position which required voting was of Early Career scientist. Matthew Hall had the votes after a ballot was held.

3) Board meeting

I attended as proxy for Andrew Boulton representing the Aquatic Cluster (ACRS, AMSA, ASL and ASPAB). Some key points emerging from this meeting:

- Geological and Geographical Sciences would like to see collaboration to promote science and maths in education
- Agricultural Sciences report a decline in membership and would like to see ideas on how to spend money available for research for science needs granted to universities; FASTS to link into this process (see <http://simerr.une.edu.au/>)

- There are several initiatives currently launched, but the need for setting up a coordination program was identified. This will be developed as a FASTS policy. Ongoing support for development programs is required, perhaps by hiring people to go around to schools in rural and remote areas.
- FASTS to propose to change the matrix used to provide feedback on the Research Quality Framework. Currently only high impacting projects are rewarded; FASTS believe that medium impacting projects also deserve being rewarded money.
- It is proposed to investigate the relationship between research priorities and other programs; for some the link is clear (as in water, see National Water Initiative or energy (Energy White Paper), but for many other research areas the link is not clear, absent or not explicit.
- SmP needs follow up, perhaps with an event named Parliament meets Science.
- SmP standing committee has been reconstituted: it is proposed to make this years SmP theme "Australia's Energy Future". Feedback on this proposal, speakers and material are requested. A presentation on hydropower and its impacts on stream ecology would be a relevant topic for ASL.
- Policy Standing Committee is developing a policy document. The timelines have become very tight and feedback will be required with very fast turnaround time:
 - For policy committee members the week after the meeting
 - For Board members draft will be circulated in Mid January with one week turnaround time for feedback. Detailed feedback will not be possible, and although the policy required Board ownership only broad consensus is sought (ie only major objections will be taken into account when finalising the document). Rather than cluster representatives only, feedback will be sought from all member societies. (I have requested to circulate to proxies as well to maximise feedback.return).

Frederick Bouckaert
22 November 2005

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

The 45th Annual ASL Congress is to be held at Albury/Wodonga from Monday 25 to Friday 29 September 2006.

Check the ASL webpage and future newsletters for regular updates.

So go to your 2006 Diaries or Outlook and put the dates in now.

Brought to you by your Organising Committee: Ben Gawne, Rhonda Sinclair, Phil Suter, Paul Humphries, Margaret Hart and Rosie Busuttil.

Catchments to Coast

International Conference

9 - 14 July, 2006

Cairns, Queensland

Australia

Welcome

The **Society of Wetland Scientists** and **Australian Marine Sciences Association** welcomes you to their joint annual meeting in the tropical city of Cairns in July 2006.

Catchments to Coast is an international conference, the major focus of which will be the vital role and value of wetlands within the terrestrial and marine environments. Importantly, the joint conference provides an international platform for showcasing the need for, and benefits of, a multidisciplinary approach to the complex issues associated with the land-sea interface.

The conference will be supplemented by a range of more specific wetland and marine science topics of current interest, including estuaries, aquaculture, migratory species, hydrological/geological processes, biogeochemistry, ecotoxicology, ecosystem-based management and protected areas.

The conference brings together the annual meetings of two major scientific societies.

1. The Society of Wetland Scientists is the largest professional body of wetland scientists and managers in the world, with more than 4000 members.

2. The Australian Marine Science Association is the major national professional association for marine scientists from all related disciplines.

The joint conference allows the development of international linkages around the connection between catchments and coasts.

We look forward to seeing you in Cairns in July 2006.

Science Meets Parliament 2006

Science Meets Parliament is an annual gathering of scientists from around the country. Scientists are able to discuss their work in face to face meetings with Parliamentarians in Canberra, informing Parliament's discussion of scientific issues and establishing linkages for further exchanges of information.

The Federation of Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) organises the event annually. The date for Science Meets Parliament 2006 are 28 February - 1 March. Members interested in attending as part of the Staff Association delegation should contact the Association office.

cstaff@cpsu.org.au

<http://www.fasts.org>

ASL VOLUNTEERS

The following members have volunteered to speak as experts on behalf of the ASL. If you wish to be included on the list or amend your contact details, please contact:

Dr Richard Marchant (ASL Secretary)

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in stream flows, ecology of exotic fishes, conservation of rare fishes.

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Michelle Casanova :*Charophytes, temporary wetlands and water plants*

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Prof. Patrick De Deckker:*salt lakes: biology, chemistry and history, palaeolimnology towards understanding past environmental change.*

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Mr Stefan Eberhard:*groundwater dependent ecosystems (subterranean fauna), caves and karst.*

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Dr Tim Entwisle:*taxonomy and ecology of freshwater macroalgae.*

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Dr Max Finlayson:*wetlands, Ramsar convention.*

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Mr Kent Hortle:*impact of mining, impact of development in SE Asia and PNG on rivers.*

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ASL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Fill out the form below and send onto the Treasurer/Membership Officer (address below), or alternatively go to the ASL website (http://www.asl.org.au/asl_member.htm). Fill in the details on the form, including credit card details, and submit. ASL is now registered for GST and tax invoices will be provided.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Surname:.....

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Department:

Organisation:

Address:

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Postcode:

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Qualifications:.....

Membership: Member: (), Student Member: (), 10 Year Member: (),

Institutional: ()

Linnological interests:

Student declaration:

I am a full time student at.....

Signed

Student status confirmed by Supervisor.....

Signed Date.....

Australian Society for Limnology Inc, ABN 54 606 483 226

Membership Rates 2005/06:

Ordinary Membership with email copy of newsletter:	\$ 55.00 (incl.GST)
Ordinary Membership with hard copy of newsletter	\$ 77.00 (incl.GST)
Student Membership with email copy of newsletter:	\$ 28.00 (incl.GST)
Student Membership with hard copy of newsletter:	\$ 50.00 (incl.GST)
Ten Year Membership with email copy of newsletter	\$495.00 (incl.GST)
Ten Year Membership with hard copy of newsletter	\$660.00 (incl.GST)

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Amount \$..... Expiry Date

Name of card holder

Signature

Please Return to:

Margaret Hart

Treasurer/Membership Officer

PO Box 605

Mulgrave VIC 3170

Ph: 03 5482 6235, Fax: 03 9807 5005, Mobile 0419 506 254

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER APPLICATION FORM

If you are a member of the ASL and want to receive your newsletter electronically, then please fill in the form below. Members who do not want to receive an electronic version, and would rather still receive the paper version will continue to do so, but you are encouraged to also fill in and send the form below (we do not have plans to phase out the paper version completely).

I am a member of the ASL and my name is:

My email address is:

I would like to receive the ASL newsletter emailed in

- Rich Text Format (.rtf)¹ - Word compatible .
- In Portable Document Format (.pdf)² - Adobe Acrobat compatible .
- In another format (please state which other format you would like to receive the ASL newsletter in).

.....

¹ Rich Text Format (.rtf) is a format that can be opened in any word processor, although slight variations in layout may occur in different programs.

² Portable Document Format (.pdf) is a format that looks and prints exactly as the publisher intended. It can be opened using Adobe Acrobat viewer which is free and can be downloaded from their website.

Please Return to:

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